

# Sermon Outline

NOBC

#29 2 Corinthians 10:1-3 (page 857)

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## Confronting Heresy in the Church: Part 1

### Laying the Foundation for Victory in the Confrontation

The first word in 2 Cor. 10:1, *now*, tells us that Paul, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, is changing subjects — it is a transitional word.

There have already been a number of signals that the Holy Spirit was leading Paul in this direction, towards this confrontation. He has already mentioned, by using words and descriptions found nowhere else in all of the New Testament, false prophets who distort and misuse God's holy Word (2 Cor. 2:17; 4:2) and said things that pointed in this direction.

As there was in Paul's day, there are those today who abuse the Gospel and the church, distorting, twisting the Gospel for personal gain and personal fame and power. The devil is always at work. The evil of heresy seems to always be present. We will learn much about how to deal with this issue as we continue our study of 2nd Corinthians. As an Apostle of Christ, Paul functioned from a position of strength. While we are not Apostles, we also can function from a position of strength because we are in Christ and Christ is in us.

#### I. PAUL'S POSITION WHEN HE WAS FACE TO FACE WITH THEM 2 COR. 10:1

Since Paul was in Christ, and we are in Christ, we can always function from a position of strength since we are to depend upon our Lord and act as He would act.

##### A. Paul Beseached Them

Paul didn't fuss at them or talk to them in a condemning way, but in an imploring way.

##### B. Paul Functioned in Meekness When He Was With Them

1. Meekness is *not weakness*

2. Meekness is *strength under control*

##### C. Paul Functioned in Gentleness When He Was With Them

*epieikia* (1932), the Greek word for gentleness, refers to being moderate, patient, or offering clemency or leniency as Christ treats us and wants us to treat others:

Matthew 12:20; Philippians. 4:5; 1 Timothy 1:16; 1 Peter 2:19-23

#### II. PAUL'S POSITION WHEN HE WAS ABSENT FROM THEM 2 COR. 10:2

##### A. Their Attitude Towards Him Required Him To Display His Confidence

##### B. Paul Was Confident In His Position In Christ and Not Intimidated By Them

##### C. The Corinthians Looked Down On Paul Because They Saw Him Simply As A Common, Working Man, Not a Man of Christ

#### III. PAUL DEFINED THE CONFLICT 2 COR. 10:3

##### A. We Live in the Realm of the Physical

Even though we have become new creatures in Christ and have received His Spirit —being born again of the Spirit (John 3:3-7) — we still live in the realm of the physical or carnal which has been affected by Satan and sin.

##### B. But Our Conflict Is Not In the Realm of the Physical

We live in a physical realm, but are involved in a spiritual conflict between God and Satan.

##### C. We Cannot Fight a Spiritual War In a Physical or Carnal Manner

Since many believers today fail to identify the enemy and the nature of the conflict, they waste their resources and fail to win the battle.